

KNIGHTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer's Report for 1947

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH

6 SEP 1948

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1947.

Population. The estimated population for 1947 was 1762.

Overcrowding. A good many houses do not conform to statutory requirements and new houses are urgently needed.

Housing. The Fronhir Housing Estate consisting of forty Bungalows has been purchased from the Ministry of Supply. The defects in these houses has been pointed out in previous reports. Adjoining this estate, some $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land has been acquired as a site for the erection of twelve permanent-type houses. Negotiations were in progress for the acquisition of a site in Frydd Road upon which to erect six Airey houses. In my opinion, this is a badly chosen site for two reasons, first, it is over-shadowed by a high hill to the South-east which cuts off the sunlight, except for short periods, for several months in the year and, second, by a bye-road which is almost certain at some future date to become part of the main Llandrindod - Craven Arms road runs between this site and row of houses known as Frydd Terrace.

The eight new houses on the Frydd Terrace site have been completed and are now occupied.

Transport. Three firms in Knighton run Bus services and the surrounding area is adequately served.

Industries. No new industries have been started.

Schools. The new school which during the War was used as a factory, has been opened as a County Secondary School.

Cometory. No new developments.

Ambulance. The service has been extremely satisfactory. From July 1948, the ambulance will be taken over by the County Council and become part of the County Ambulance Service.

Nursing. There is nothing to add to the comments in the 1945 report.

Hospitals. The Poor Law Hospital (Offa's Lodge) continues to serve a useful function in providing nursing for the aged and chronic sick; with increasing difficulty in getting help in the home in cases of sickness, it is being used more and more for general medical cases. The position regarding staff is variable but generally speaking the Institution is understaffed.

Water. Although 1947 was a dry season, the supply proved sufficient for the needs of the town but, during some periods, water had to be pumped to the reservoir from Jackett's Well. Analyses show intermittent contamination but all samples were satisfactory after passing the chlorinators. The water is not plumbosolvent but the supplementary supply from Birmingham Corporation aqueduct is reported to have corrosive properties.

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Sewage. No new works have been put in hand in 1947.

Infectious Diseases. Seven cases were notified:-

Pneumonia - 1 male, aged 63 years.

Measles - 2 male and 2 female, ages 7, 10, 15 and 46 years.

Scarlet Fever - 1 male and 1 female, ages 8 and 6 years.

Tuberculosis. No new cases were notified. There was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, a male aged 34 years.

Tuberculosis Allowance Scheme. The scheme has worked satisfactorily. One person in the Urban District received allowances during 1947.

Carcinoma. There were six deaths from carcinoma - 3 male and 3 female. The sites of the primary growths were: Stomach 2; Colon 1; Rectum 1; Breast 1; Ovary 1.

Births. 28 live births were registered - 12 male and 16 female. There was one illegitimate birth. One still-birth was reported. There were no illegitimate still-births.

Premature Infants. There is a cot for premature infants at the Hospital at Llandrindod Wells.

Deaths. 18 deaths were registered - 13 male and 5 female.

Contagious Diseases. Scabies has practically disappeared.

Arrangements for venereal disease treatment are as previously reported and are unsatisfactory - the clinics at Shrewsbury and Hereford are open at times which make regular attendance inconvenient and often impossible.

Diphtheria Immunization. The County Medical Officer does mass immunizations during school medical inspections and a large percentage are done privately by local practitioners. The scheme is popular and it is unusual to see a child over one year of age who has not been injected. A good many children are now attending for reinforcing injections.

Purchase of land by Urban District Council. The Council have purchased about 6 acres of land off West Street and also the Bryn-y-Castle grounds mentioned in my last report and comprising some 13 acres. They are to be used as public pleasure and recreation grounds and a grant towards the cost has been received from the Ministry of Education.

Livestock Market. Following a Local Inquiry held in October 1947, the Council has received permission to carry out a scheme for the reconstruction of the Livestock Market. It is the intention that the two existing markets be merged in one premises and that the market to be vacated be converted into a Car Park.

Appointment of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. Mr. E.J. Morgans, B.Sc., M.R.S.I., was appointed Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector in succession to Mr. C.H. Fowler who had resigned, and he took up his duties on 1st May, 1947.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(signed) G.H.H. BOOTH

